

Friday, September 26, 2008

From the Coeur d'Alene Press

- Corridor sparks citizen concerns

From the Spokesman-Review

- No new education news stories posted online today.

From the Moscow Pullman Daily News (password required)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

From the Lewiston Tribune (password required)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa

- Nampa could raise driving school fees
- NNU names finance official to VP post
- Skyview band tops at BSU homecoming parade

From the Idaho Statesman

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- BSU to hold canned food drive for Boise Rescue Mission during Louisiana Tech game
- Driver training fees may go up in Nampa

From the Twin Falls Times-News

- CSI corn maze opens today
- No need to reinvent the wheel for dairy center

From the Idaho State Journal (password Required)

- ISU gets \$4.8 million in defense earmarks

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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

Corridor sparks citizen concerns

Posted: Thursday, Sep 25, 2008 - 10:56:48 pm PDT

By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

Another community forum meeting planned for Oct.

COEUR d'ALENE -- Foregone taxes, traffic plans, evacuation plans and building plans were just some issues on the minds of people who showed up Thursday for this week's second community forum about the education corridor project planned for downtown Coeur d'Alene.

More than 30 people gathered on the North Idaho College campus for the 7 a.m. meeting, including local legislators Bob Nonini and Frank Henderson.

Rep. Nonini asked whether there was a timeline for when there would be a master plan of the whole project with the total costs.

NIC President Priscilla Bell said there is a master plan, but it's conceptual. They have not yet "footprinted" buildings and costs, she said.

"The first thing that has to happen is a major traffic impact study has to be done," said Coeur d'Alene Mayor Sandi Bloem.

North Idaho College, the city of Coeur d'Alene and its urban renewal agency, Lake City Development Corp. and the University of Idaho are partnering in the education corridor's building development plans. Lewis-Clark State College, Idaho State University and Boise State University will all have a presence in the corridor.

The planned corridor project encompasses the 17-acre DeArmond Mill site property adjacent to NIC's downtown location and additional acreage extending west along the Spokane River to the Highway 95 bridge that crosses the river.

Earlier this month, college trustees agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Black Rock developer Marshall Chesrown to purchase the 17-acre mill site property from him for \$10 million. Chesrown is purchasing the land from Stimson Lumber Company, which shut down operation at the site last spring.

Trustees previously approved tapping \$2.4 million in foregone taxes from county property owners to go toward purchasing the property.

The question was raised how the \$2.4 million would cover the \$10 million price.

"The assumption is that it will be added to the budget next year, the year after and the year after, so there will be probably at least \$2.4 million added to the budget four years in a row to pay for the \$10 million," Armon said.

The cost to the owner of a \$300,000 home will be about \$32 each year for those years, he said.

Armon told the group that amount will be added to the college's base budget each year in addition to regular property taxes.

Nonini said Gov. Butch Otter has told them that because the University of Idaho has more than \$200 million in deferred maintenance needed on facilities at its Moscow campus, they should not expect approval for "a ton of dough to build new buildings in Coeur d'Alene."

UI's Larry Branen said he was aware of that, and all the partners said they were exploring ways to fund developing the property with a limited burden to tax payers.

The question of whether a plan exists for dealing with traffic congestion in the Fort Grounds Neighborhood near the college was raised.

LCDC director Tony Berns said the initial traffic planning has been done, but more is needed.

The city's wastewater treatment plant is near the center of the land planned for development, a fact that has caused concern for some people who attended this morning's forum and a similar one held Tuesday.

Dick Phenneger, who is running for election to NIC's board of trustees, spoke about the hazards posed by chemicals stored at the treatment plant that are used to disinfect the city's wastewater.

Phenneger and several other community members who attended today's meeting said they were unaware if an evacuation plan for the college exists should a chemical leak occur.

"One of the things about the ed corridor that will help to address this is that, with the purchase of the mill site and the college acquisition of that mill site, we will have the opportunity to work with the city to establish additional ingress and egress," Bell said. "We train our staff on evacuation based on different kinds of emergencies. It is difficult to evacuate NIC because of the limited ingress and egress."

She said with the purchase of the property and development of the corridor they will be able to more effectively evacuate the campus in the event of an emergency.

Another community forum meeting is being planned for October. The date has not been set yet, but it is promised to be scheduled in the evening.

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

Nampa could raise driving school fees

Education: Officials said increase would still be cheaper than private companies

By Mike Butts

mbutts@idahopress.com

NAMPA — Nampa Schools may raise the rates for driving school from \$190 to \$220 per student.

The proposed fee increase would be to cover higher fuel and maintenance costs, a district spokeswoman said Thursday.

Nampa raised its driving school fee from \$175 to \$190 last year.

The Nampa School Board will meet today for a hearing on the proposed fee increase. The hearing is at 5:30 p.m. at the district office at 619 S. Canyon Street.

Officials said the district's driving school cost would be less expensive than a private driving school, some of which charge \$375.

Nampa Schools contracted out the driving school instruction program in January to a private company. Before that the district operated its driving school at a loss, district spokeswoman Allison Westfall said.

The new system of using a private company to teach driving to Nampa students has enabled the district to serve more students. There had been a waiting list of up to 400 students wanting to take the class.

"Although the fee is going up, it is less expensive than going to a private provider, which we found many of our parents had to do," Westfall said. "Under this new model we have been able to greatly increase the number of slots available."

Vallivue's and Meridian's driving school rates are both \$190. Boise's is \$200.

NNU names finance official to VP post

Idaho Press-Tribune staff
newsroom@idahopress.com

NAMPA — Northwest Nazarene University officials have named David Peterson the new vice president for financial affairs.

Peterson has served as a university trustee for nine years and will now assume leadership of financial affairs in November.

“Peterson’s extensive professional management experience in the financial industry and his understanding of the mission of the university well qualify him to serve in this important role,” NNU President David Alexander said.

The vice president for financial affairs provides leadership and oversight of the financial and operational functions including oversight of university budgets, financial systems, information technology and the physical plant of the university.

“I look forward to working with NNU stakeholders because I recognize the importance of continued costeffective delivery of services that enable students and parents to make life-impacting decisions,” Peterson said.

Peterson has worked with The Boeing Company for the past 11 years as Business and Financial Planning Analyst 737 Program and most recently as a financial planning senior analyst for In-Production Airplane Programs.

He began his professional career with Sears, Roebuck and Co. managing the Northwest credit enterprise and later served in private Christian education as chief financial officer for Kings Schools, a ministry of CRISTA in Seattle.

Skyview band tops at BSU homecoming parade

BOISE — Skyview High School’s 85-member marching band captured top honors among marching bands participating in the Boise State University homecoming parade Sept. 13. Five Treasure Valley bands competed.

“The band did a magnificent job,” director Josie A. Call said. “We performed and marched in the parade and participated in a drum line clinic that morning.

“Dave Wells, director of BSU’s marching band, put together the competition and it was judged by the former director of the Boise Philharmonic,” added Call.

“The band was impressive, refined ... gave a strong presentation musically and marching,” the judge said.

The reigning 4A district champs took home \$700 in prize money as the winning band. Skyview will join other area competition marching bands at the Caldwell High School USSBA Showcase at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

Idaho first lady helps create history book

Lori Otter thought kids could use a better tool to learn about the state's history.

BY ANNE WALLACE ALLEN - aallen@idahostatesman.com

Edition Date: 09/26/08

Unsatisfied with the materials available for kids to learn about Idaho history, first lady Lori Otter decided to come up with some of her own.

The result: "Ida Visits the Capitol," a 30-page picture book about a barnstorming female pilot named Ida who swoops all over the vast state, touching on agriculture, lumber, politics, and more.

Otter hopes the book, which was paid for with private fundraising and with sponsorships, will become a series that can supplement the dense material that now makes up much of the fourth-grade Idaho history curriculum. She'd also like something fun to hand out to children who visit the Statehouse.

Ida the pilot is based on the daredevil female pilots who toured the country in the 1920s.

"I wanted to make something kids would respond to," said Otter, a former physical education and health teacher who worked on the book with Boise State University history professor Todd Shallat and with Nancy Tacke, a specialist on Idaho history curriculum for children.

Idaho does need better fourth-grade history materials.

Eric Schmitz, a teacher at Taft Elementary School in Boise's North End, said he uses materials he has created himself or found online, rather than a text recently adopted by the Boise School District, because the book is too difficult for many of the kids in his classes.

"You open a page and it's so text-laden that lower-level readers just overload," Schmitz said. "It's going to overwhelm any kids who open it."

Jessica Thornton, who teaches a combination fourth- and fifth-grade class at Whittier Elementary School, agreed. She uses materials and pictures she finds online.

"It's really hard to get things that are specific to Idaho," Thornton said, adding that the recently adopted textbook is too difficult for many of the children she teaches as well. "The things I have are from 1970 . . . you kind of just weed through it."

Otter, Shallat and Tacke received money from dozens of sponsors, including agricultural groups like the Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association, the Nez Perce Prairie Grass Growers Association, and the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, for their book. Other sponsors include the gambling supplier and operator Intralot USA, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and Rocky Mountain Power-Pacificorp. The Idaho Education Association, Idaho Library Association, and Idaho Water Users Association also contributed.

None of the sponsoring groups had any editorial control over the content of the book, said the authors. "Ida Visits the Capitol" was based on the state's fourth-grade history standards.

"I think the mining guys really didn't want us to put in the Sunshine Mine (disaster), but we were like, 'That's a big part of Idaho history.' " said Otter. "We really had to just stick to our guns and say, 'It's an Idaho history book for kids. We're not selling anything, we're not gaining anything, and if you don't want to contribute, you don't have to.' "

Otter and her co-authors printed 500 hardback and 20,000 softback copies of the book, and are giving them out through the governor's office. They're sending one to every elementary-level school in Idaho and to every library.

Books also will be available for sale; proceeds will go to an education fund through the Idaho Community Foundation.

Otter is already planning more books featuring the stylish Ida, who wears red aviator goggles and a long blue scarf. She'd like to do books on Idaho's 44 counties, in partnership with Boise State or a corporate sponsor.

"We might go into more depth: Ida explores the state symbols, or Ida explores salmon, or rivers... It's just endless the things you could do to supplement the Idaho curriculum with this type of character," said Otter. "I love anything to do with books and kids."

BSU to hold canned food drive for Boise Rescue Mission during Louisiana Tech game

Statesman staff - Idaho Statesman
Edition Date: 09/25/08

Boise Rescue Mission volunteers will collect cans of soup, meats, fruits and vegetables during the BSU vs. Louisiana Tech game on Wednesday, Oct 1.

Collection barrels will be available at all BSU stadium entrances.

Fans are encouraged to bring canned food and non-perishable items. Monetary donations also accepted. Last year, fans donated more than 400 pounds of canned food items.

Driver training fees may go up in Nampa

Nampa School District news

BY BILL ROBERTS - broberts@idahostatesman.com

Edition Date: 09/26/08

Learning to drive in the Nampa School District could cost students more money this school year.

But Meridian students may save some money beginning next semester.

Nampa School Board trustees are considering raising the driving instruction fee by 16 percent to \$220 from \$190. If the board approves the new fee, it will go into effect immediately.

A public hearing is planned on the increase at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the district office, 619 S. Canyon St. in Nampa.

Increased gas and maintenance costs are blamed for the increase.

The proposed fees are higher than Boise or Meridian districts. Boise's is \$200. Meridian's is \$190.

Nampa raised fees last year to \$190 from \$175.

Meanwhile, Meridian District may consider dropping its fees by as much as \$30 next semester. No decision has been made yet.

If students were to go to a driving school on their own, they could pay up to \$375 for private instruction.

The state offers a subsidy of up to \$125 per student for driver training. Meridian is using only about \$85 per student, so the district may cut fees to kids and seek more of the subsidy, said Eric Exline, Meridian District spokesman.

Meridian has its own instructors and leases a fleet of 11 cars.

Nampa dropped its own program and began contracting with Phillips Driving School of Boise earlier this year.

More students are able to participate under the contract system, said Allison Westfall, district spokesman.

When Nampa ran its own program, about 160 students got training and a waiting list grew to about 400, she said.

This year, Phillips has taught 300 students and expects to increase the number in a year, Westfall said.

The district no longer keeps a waiting list.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

CSI corn maze opens today

The College of Southern Idaho's sixth annual Corn Maze will open today at its usual campus location at the corner of North College and Washington streets.

The maze is a fundraiser sponsored by the CSI Horticulture Club. Other student groups assist with the maze on various nights of each week. The maze will be open from 5 to 10 p.m. every night through Halloween, Oct. 31.

CSI horticulture professor Dave Kiesig said the maze has been made even trickier this year with more twists, turns, and dead ends. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own flashlights for after-dark visits. Clubs will be selling hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot chocolate, coffee and home-baked treats at the maze entrance.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students with activity cards. Children 6 and under are admitted free. Larger groups, those who would like to bring small children to go through the maze in the daytime, or those who would like to do activities in the maze are encouraged to make arrangements by calling Kiesig at 732-6431.

No need to reinvent the wheel for dairy center

The last thing the University of Idaho needs at its proposed Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies in the Magic Valley is another feedlot-vs.-neighbors battle. So the university is wise to consider buying and retrofitting an existing confined animal feeding operation for its dairy research facility, to be located within 20 miles of the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls and from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Station in Kimberly.

Originally, the U of I reckoned it would build the center from scratch. It still may do so, but is thinking about alternatives because of "changing market and land values" in the Magic and Treasure valleys, according to John Hammel, dean of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

An existing CAFO isn't necessarily a trouble-free dairy as far as the neighbors are concerned, but it has probably already met certain environmental standards. And it has more than likely grown up along with nearby development, not in spite of it.

The university is looking for at least 1,000 acres with good year-round water for the \$37 million center, intended to operate both as a research complex and full-fledged CAFO. The complex would be managed by a nonprofit with its own board of directors. It would house 1,500 milking cows, 225 "dry" cows, 600 beef cattle and, eventually, 1,500 heifer replacements, according to preliminary plans.

The Legislature approved a \$10 million appropriation for the center, and the dairy industry, U of I and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture are collaborating to cover the remainder.

The university is mulling other options, mostly for financial reasons. But it also wants this facility to be built and operated the right way, as a responsible community resource - not just a dairy research outpost.

That's good news for the Magic Valley economy, the dairy industry - and its neighbors.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

ISU gets \$4.8 million in defense earmarks

BY JOURNAL STAFF

Idaho State University will receive \$4.8 million for research in 2009 thanks to earmarks in a defense bill.

Other entities, including ON Semiconductor and Premier Technology, will also benefit, according to a joint press release from Idaho Sens. Larry Craig, Mike Crapo and Congressman Mike Simpson.

"This funding demonstrates the first-class research and development work of businesses and universities in our great state," Craig said in the press release. "Many of these projects will directly improve the safety and health of our troops, enabling us to fulfill the commitment we have to the brave men and women who fight to protect our freedom."

ISU's earmarks include:

- \$1.6 million to help develop "smart" prostheses that simulate the intricate operations of the hand for wounded troops. The university began working on this project last year.
- \$2 million for the development of practical non-destructive techniques to help the U.S. Air Force reduce aircraft downtime necessary for inspection and enhance turn-around times by more quickly identifying needed repairs through spectroscopy and the use of X-ray.
- \$1.2 million for a project which will use information about the genetic and molecular mechanisms that enable extremely radiation-resistant microorganisms to survive doses of radiation that are orders of magnitude greater than what humans can withstand and to use that knowledge to design more effective treatments for radiation exposures in humans.

ON Semiconductor in Pocatello will receive \$1.6 million to improve technologies to manufacture and utilize infrared sensors for the military.

Premier Technology in Blackfoot will receive \$800,000 to develop equipment for submarine nuclear reactor propulsion systems. The new joining techniques for the structures will reduce the requirement for inspection, overhaul and maintenance for the Navy's next generation of nuclear submarines.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.